The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

making the second laser beam pass through a first condensing lens and a second condensing lens after passing through the beam homogenizer;

making the second laser beam enter an irradiation surface; and

moving the second laser beam relative to the irradiation surface,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

2. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

changing the second laser beam into a third laser beam by condensing the second laser beam on a plane by using a first condensing lens;

making the third laser beam enter an irradiation surface through a second condensing lens; and

moving the third laser beam relative to the irradiation surface,

wherein the second condensing lens is disposed at a position where the plane and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation, and

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

3. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation method comprising:

changing a first laser beam emitted from a solid-state laser oscillator which oscillates a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more into a second laser beam whose intensity distribution is homogenized by passing through a beam homogenizer;

changing the second laser beam into a third laser beam by using a slit to block an end portion of the second laser beam;

making the third laser beam pass through a condensing lens and a projecting lens so that an image of the third laser beam formed by the slit is projected onto an irradiation surface; and

moving the irradiation surface relative to the laser beam,

wherein the projecting lens is disposed at a position where the slit and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation, and

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

4. (Original) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the condensing lens is a convex cylindrical lens or a convex spherical lens.

5. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator is a solid-state laser oscillator which includes the crystal of ceramic YAG or ceramic Y_2O_3 doped with at least one of Nd, Yb, Cr, Ti, Ho, and Er.

6. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the laser beam is converted by a non-linear optical element.

7. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the beam homogenizer uses any one of a cylindrical lens array, a light pipe, and a fly-eye lens.

8. (Previously Presented) A digital video camera, a digital camera, a navigation system, a sound reproduction device, a display, a mobile terminal, a thin film integrated circuit device, or a CPU manufactured by using the laser irradiation method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3.

9. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a solid-state laser oscillator for oscillating a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more;

a beam homogenizer for homogenizing intensity distribution of the laser beam emitted from the solid-state laser oscillator;

a first condensing lens for condensing the laser beam which has passed through the beam homogenizer;

a second condensing lens for condensing the laser beam which has passed through the first condensing lens; and

means for moving an irradiation surface of the laser beam relative to the laser beam,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

10. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a solid-state laser oscillator for oscillating a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more;

a beam homogenizer for homogenizing intensity distribution of the laser beam emitted from the solid-state laser oscillator;

a condensing lens for condensing the laser beam which has passed through the beam homogenizer on a plane; and

means for moving an irradiation surface relative to the laser beam,

wherein the condensing lens is disposed at a position where the plane and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation, and

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

11. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a solid-state laser oscillator for oscillating a laser beam having a spectral width which is 0.1 nm or more;

a beam homogenizer for homogenizing intensity distribution of the laser beam emitted from the solid-state laser oscillator;

a slit for blocking an end portion of the laser beam whose intensity distribution has been homogenized by the beam homogenizer;

a condensing lens for condensing the laser beam;

a projecting lens for projecting an image of the laser beam formed by the slit onto an irradiation surface; and

means for moving the irradiation surface relative to the laser beam,

wherein the projecting lens is disposed at a position where the slit and the irradiation surface are in a conjugate relation, and

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator includes a crystal of ceramic doped with Yb.

12. (Original) The laser irradiation apparatus according to Claim 10 or 11,

wherein the condensing lens is a convex cylindrical lens or a convex spherical lens.

13. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation apparatus according to any one of Claims 9 to 11,

wherein the solid-state laser oscillator is a solid-state laser oscillator which includes the crystal of ceramic YAG or ceramic Y_2O_3 doped with at least one of Nd, Yb, Cr, Ti, Ho, and Er.

14. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation apparatus according to any one of Claims 9 to 11,

wherein the laser beam is a harmonic converted by a non-linear optical element.

15. (Previously Presented) The laser irradiation apparatus according to any one of Claims 9 to 11,

wherein the beam homogenizer is any one of a cylindrical lens array, a light pipe, and a fly-eye lens.

16. (Previously Presented) A digital video camera, a digital camera, a navigation system, a sound reproduction device, a display, a mobile terminal, a thin film integrated circuit device, or a CPU manufactured by using the laser irradiation

apparatus according to any one of Claims 9 to 11.

17. (New) The laser irradiation method according to claim 1,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

18. (New) The laser irradiation method according to claim 2,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

19. (New) The laser irradiation method according to claim 3,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

20. (New) The laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

21. (New) The laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.

22. (New) The laser irradiation apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein a fundamental wavelength is converted into harmonic in the solid-state laser oscillator.